

- 33 -

Claims:

1. A method of treating coloured fabrics with a luminance (L\*) less than 50 which comprises contacting the fabrics with a wash liquor comprising:
  - a) 0.1-0.001 g/L of a hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative of a beta 1-4 polysaccharide, and,
  - b) surfactant.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the fabrics are black.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative of a beta 1-4 polysaccharide is a cellulose derivative.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative is a hydroxy ethyl derivative.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the degree of substitution of the hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative (DS) is 1-3.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the degree of substitution of the hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative (DS) is 1.5-2.25.
7. A method according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative is hydroxy ethyl cellulose.

- 34 -

8. A method according to claim 1 wherein the molecular weight of the hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative of a beta 1-4 polysaccharide is 100,000 to 500,000 Dalton.

5

9. A method according to claim 1 wherein the molecular weight of the hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative of a beta 1-4 polysaccharide is 100,000 to 300,000 Dalton.

10 10. A method according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxy C2-C4 alkyl derivative of a beta 1-4 polysaccharide is such that viscosity of the material is 300-400 cps at 2%wt solution in water.